COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD

ABSTRACT

A communications system (1) includes a plurality of nodes (2). Each node (2) has receiving means for receiving a signal transmitted by wireless transmitting means; transmitting means for wireless transmission of a signal; and, means for determining if a signal received by said node (2) includes information for another node (2) and causing a signal including said information to be transmitted by said transmitting means to another node (2) if said received signal includes information for another node (2). Each node (2) has a substantially unidirectional point-to-point wireless transmission link (3) with at least one other node (2) such that each node (2) can transmit a signal to at least one other node (2). At least some of the nodes (2) have plural substantially unidirectional point-to-point wireless transmission links (3). Each link (3) between respective pairs of nodes (2) is associated with a distinct time slot. The nodes (2) are linked so as to form transmission path loops thereby to provide plural choices of path for the transmission of a signal between at least some of the nodes (2). Each loop consists of an even number of links (3).